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Housekeeper's Chat

Wednesday, July 16, 1930.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "The Fourth National 4-H Club Camp." Description of a week's visit to the encampment on the grounds of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Program includes menu from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

---ooOoo---

We hear a lot nowadays about the younger generation, particularly about its faults. But I know some members of a younger generation who don't get talked about half enough, and I mean to tell you a little about them myself, if I can.

There are 700,000 or more young people enrolled in this group I'm interested in. They call themselves 4-H club members, and they wear a four-leaf clover as an emblem. The H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, and indicate the goals they are pledged to. Their ages are from 10 to 20 years.

Every year two boys and two girls in each State are selected to come to Washington to represent all the other members in their States at the national club camp. Of course those with the best records are chosen. So the mere fact that they are here means they have done something outstanding. It's a nice feeling, to wander around the camp as I have done, and look into the faces of these alert boys and girls, knowing that each one is the finest member the State could send.

What I'd like to know, is this: Just what proportion of the "younger generation" do these fine boys and girls - and the 700,000 boys and girls on the farm back home - represent? I think it's a big enough proportion to save us from worrying much about the younger generation.

I wish you could all visit the camp with me and follow the campers through the entire week. I'll try to give you some of the high lights, especially the things that were not in the newspapers.

Picture, if you can, about forty tents on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, along the Mall, and in the shadow of the Washington Monument. The tents house 155 club members from 39 states, with their leaders - over 200 people in all. There's an open quadrangle in the middle, marked by a large 4-H clover in white tiles. Here they have group games, pictures are taken, and evening campfires are held. I saw Secretary Hyde out there one day, having his picture taken with the Missouri delegation. Some of the senators and representatives who take a great deal of interest in club work come over from the capitol to be photographed with the boys and girls from their home States.

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The camp uniforms add greatly to the picturesqueness of the group. The boys all wear white-duck trousers, white shirts, and soft white felt hats. The girls wear the same kind of hats, with jade green uniforms - which they make themselves, I'm told. And white stockings.

Every day a camp news sheet is published. On the bulletin board near the quadrangle the campers are expected to find their news assignments. Certain boys and girls are asked to "cover" the various events of each day, and they do it very well, too.

I learned from this news sheet, the "4-H Forage", that Edward Henderson, of Bellingham, Washington, had traveled over 2,000 miles to attend the camp; that Oklahoma was the first State to come into camp, although its delegation motored all the way; that Zella Childers, of Oklahoma, who told some charming Indian folk lore tales at the camp fire, is really descended from the Indians; that Walter Johnson, manager of the Washington baseball team, who was a former Kansas farmer, honored the club at the ball game attended one afternoon; that Isabelle McKellar, who was the last club member to arrive at camp, was delayed by having to stay and graduate from High School in Saginaw County, Michigan, and received a \$1200 scholarship; that Mary Campbell of Washington received a scholarship of \$400 given by the D.A.R. for having the best all around club record of any member attending the camp.

If I had time I could cite any number of other interesting bits from the "Forage", but I think you would prefer to know more about the camp itself.

The day's routine, following reveille and dressing, began with a walk over to Pennsylvania Avenue for breakfast; next was another ten minute walk to the New National Museum for morning assembly in the auditorium. I liked the singing at these assemblies. Very often it was accompanied by colored slides illustrating the text. "America the Beautiful" really is beautiful in the slides, and the boys and girls sing it with so much spirit.

The special girls' club song, called "Dreaming", is my favorite. It begins "My home must have a high tree, beside its garden gate", and the colored slides visualize that quiet farm home while they sing it. There's a boys' plowing song, and a health song, and many familiar ones.

Famous people talk at these assemblies. I went over to hear Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of Interior, James C. Stone of the Federal Farm Board, and Judge Florence E. Allen. They were all fine, but I liked especially what Judge Allen had to say about the duties and responsibilities of being a member of the "club of the United States". It seemed to me that if I had a boy or girl between sixteen and twenty, as most of these club members are, that was just the sort of talk I'd want them to hear.

One of the purposes of the annual camp is to have the various states get together and confer on club problems and policies. This is done every morning after assembly, before the first educational tour.

Then it's part of the training in leadership to have a member of group games on the quadrangle, so that these members, who are nearly all officers

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in their local clubs, can organize similar community recreations when they go back home.

I won't attempt to tell you about the educational tours. The visitors saw everything worth seeing in Washington, including the White House and President Hoover and some buildings I've never had time to go into myself.

They talked over the radio several times. Different ones were chosen to tell about their club experiences or take part in the nation-wide broadcast that was held one evening. Like everything else, they did this extremely well, although many of them were new at it.

One of these radio programs typified the pervading spirit of the whole week. It was called the "four Corners of the Country" and was given over the department's noon net-work. Perhaps some of you listened in on Guilda Yates of Florida, or Norman K. Smith of Maine, or Helen Giberson of Washington, or Austin Brooks of New Mexico, describing club work in his or her "corner" of the United States.

The same idea, considerably amplified (no, that's not a piece of radio humor- I mean amplified, enlarged--I mean I really do, as Billy says) was carried out in the jolly club banquet held in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The program, which was presided over by Earl Butz of Indiana, took the form of an imaginary "Flyer", making descriptive stops at various points of interest all over the country. Here is what the news reporter had to say about it:

"Ralph Granger of Massachusetts told us about the history of Boston, where we started. Horace Farr told us about making maple sugar in Vermont. Lewis Butzow described the corn fields of the Middle West; Gaylord Munson of Kansas, the wheat fields; Clarence Klusman told about the cold weather of North Dakota. Our next stop on the 4-H Flyer was Wenatchee Valley, and Fraz Sunnitsch from Washington State gave us a picture of apple blossom time. The beautiful scenery of Mt. Rainier was the theme of Mary Campbell of the same state, and Edward Henderson described the logging camps of that region.

"Zella Childers of Oklahoma told us some more about Indian life, W. C. Wright described the oil wells and other features of Texas; Harry Tucker of Georgia pictured the white cotton fields of his state to us. We then heard some negro spirituals sung by the southern group, and saw a real Virginia reel".

Could any program be better calculated to acquaint boys and girls from one part of the country with the background of those in another? And I also forgot to tell you that a friendly telegram from Mrs. Hoover was read at the banquet. Mrs. Hoover greatly regretted that she could not leave her camp on the Rapidan to attend the National 4-H camp, as she had met the campers of the previous year.



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R-H.C. 7/16

I wish I had more time to tell you about these boys and girls, and why I am so enthusiastic about them. But there's dinner to prepare -- and you know what that means. Our menu today is one for the children, this being a Wednesday: Corn Pudding; String Beans; Graham Toast; Frosted Chocolate.

There's a recipe for Corn Pudding in the radio cookbook. The Frosted Chocolate is cold cocoa, with a spoonful of ice cream in it, and served in a tall glass -- you know -- soda fountain style.

And that completes our menu: Corn Pudding; String Beans; Graham Toast; and Frosted Chocolate.

Thursday: "Boning Lamb Cuts."

12-1-1901

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